

Application Serial Number 10/646,577
Dated: December 7, 2005
Reply to Office Action dated: September 9, 2005

REMARKS

By this amendment the specification is amended to provide precise antecedent basis for the claim language; claim 22 is amended to address the Examiner's 35 U.S.C. §112 objection thereto; and the claims are amended to better define the invention and better distinguish over the cited prior art.

Independent claims 1, 21 and 22 stand rejected as unpatentable over *Neuschwanger et al.* in view of *Gedritis et al.*, and independent claim 13 is rejected as unpatentable over *Neuschwanger* in view of *Gedritis*, and further in view of *Eustache et al.*

Although the claims before the herein amendments are considered to have defined patentably over the cited prior art taken singly or in any reasonable hypothetical combination, the independent claims have herein been amended in a manner to better distinguish over the cited prior art.

Specifically, claim 1 now requires that the cowl grill structure is intended for positioning in a longitudinal space between a lower edge of the motor vehicle windshield and a rear edge of a motor vehicle hood; further now requires that the cowl grill structure include a molded main body planar leaf screen plate portion defining a series of laterally spaced grill openings to allow the entry of fresh air into the vehicle; further now requires that the washer fluid channel extend laterally along the main body plate portion; and further now requires that the mounting housing structure be molded integrally with the main body plate portion. Note in this regard that in *Neuschwanger*, the primary teaching reference, there is no cowl grille structure in the usual sense and there is clearly no cowl grill structure including a molded main body planar leaf screen plate portion defining a series of laterally spaced grille openings to allow the entry of fresh air into the vehicle. Rather, the comparable structure in *Neuschwanger* comprises a pipe 68 running substantially parallel to the base of the windshield under the hood and under the cowl of the vehicle. However, even assuming that the pipe 68 satisfies the requirement of a washer fluid channel extending laterally across the vehicle, *Neuschwanger* clearly fails to disclose the further claim requirements that the cowl grill structure include a molded main body planar leaf screen plate portion defining a series of laterally spaced grill openings to allow the entry of fresh air into the vehicle. It is respectfully submitted that this main body planar plate portion is totally lacking in *Neuschwanger* and there is no reasonable hypothetical way in which the references could be

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combined to anticipate this specific structure. This same distinguishing language is now present in claims 21 and 22.

Claim 13 stands rejected as unpatentable over *Neuschwanger* in view of *Gedritis* and further in view of *Eustache* with *Eustache* cited to show a cowl grille structure having grille openings that are laterally spaced. Claim 13 has been amended to include the same distinguishing language as independent claims 1, 21 and 22 and it is respectfully submitted that the *Neuschwanger*, *Gedritis* and *Eustache* references even as hypothetically combined, fail to teach the basic concept of applicant's invention of a cowl grill structure including a molded main body planar leaf screen plate portion defining the grille openings and a washer fluid channel extending laterally along the main body plate portion for delivery of washer fluid to nozzle members received in rearwardly opening cavities molded integrally with the main body plate portion.

This application is now considered to be a condition for allowance. If the Examiner feels that other claim terminology would better define the invention or better distinguish over the cited prior art, he is respectfully requested to call Applicant's attorney at the number shown below in an effort to agree upon an Examiner's Amendment to allow the application to pass to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

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